

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03087 220828Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /071 W

-----032199 221205Z /43

R 220700Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8143

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3087

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PINS, SN

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DETAINEE SHAMSUDDIN TUNG SEEKS RELEASE

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 0777, (B) 76 SINGAPORE 5756

1. SUMMARY: SHAMSUDDIN TUNG AKA TUNG TAO CHANG, DETAINED ON DECEMBER 24, 1976 FOR "PLAYING ON THE 'GUT' ISSUES OF CHINESE LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO INCITE CHAUVINISTIC EMOTIONS," (REF B) HAS MADE A BID FOR RELEASE. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ON JULY 21 THAT TUNG HAS WRITTEN TO PM LEE VOLUNTEERING TO PUBLICLY RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. TUNG'S WIFE AND HIS SOLICITOR, J. B. JEYARETNAM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WORKER'S PARTY, ANNOUNCED IN JULY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SHAMSUDDIN TUNG HAS WRITTEN PM LEE TO SEEK RELEASE FROM CHANGI PRISON BY UNDERTAKING TO MAKE A PUBLIC RENUNCIATION OF THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. COPIES OF THE LETTER WERE DISTRIBUTED AT THE CONFERENCE AND THE FOLLOWING QUOTES WERE PRINTED IN THE STRAITS TIMES:

"I, TUNG TAO CHANG ALIAS SHAMSUDDIN TUNG, PRESENTLY DETAINED AT MOON CRESCENT DETENTION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 03087 220828Z

CENTRE UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, WELCOME THE VARIOUS ASSURANCES GIVEN BY YOU BOTH IN SINGAPORE AND OVERSEAS THAT ANY DETAINEE WILL BE RELEASED IF HE PUBLICLY RENOUNCES THE USE OF FORCE TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT.

"I WISH TO SAY THAT I AM NOT AND NEVER HAVE BEEN A COMMUNIST, A PRO-COMMUNIST OR EVEN A

COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER. THE INTERNAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THIS.

"EQUALLY, I HAVE NEVER ADVOCATED VIOLENCE OR THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT..."

"...(I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY) TO DECLARE PUBLICLY MY ABHORRENCE OF FORCE AS A MEANS OF OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT..."

JEYARETNAM COULD NOT CONFIRM IF THE LETTER HAD REACHED THE PM. MRS. TUNG SAID THE LETTER WAS SUBMITTED THROUGH DETENTION CENTER AUTHORITIES ON JULY 1 AND THAT SINCE THEN SHE HAS BEEN ANXIOUSLY AWAITING AREPLY.

3. COMMENT: BY PUBLICLY INVOKING PM LEE'S OFFER TO RELEASE DETAINEES WHO RENOUNCE THE USE OF VIOLENCE, TUNG IS CLEARLY TRYING TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT'S HAND. OFFER, HOWEVER, WAS SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT THOSE DETAINED FOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, AND TUNG IS BEING HELD ON CHARGES OF CHINESE CHAUVINISM. HE HAS ALSO BEEN IMPLICATED BY LEONG MUN KWAI (REF A) AS BEING INVOLVED WITH LEONG AND MALAYSIAN SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS IN THEIR "BLACK PLOT" TO DISCREDIT PM LEE, AND GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE HIS TESTIMONY ABOUT THIS INVOLVEMENT.

4. TUNG'S CURRENT PLOY IS UNLIKELY TO WORK. THE LEAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 03087 220828Z

EDITORIAL IN THE JULY 22 STRAITS TIMES ASSERTS THAT HIS DECLARATION WAS ESSENTIALLY IRRELEVANT IN THAT HE HAD DENIED WRONGDOINGS FOR WHICH HE HAD NEVER BEEN CHARGED. POINTING OUT THAT HE WAS IN FACT BEING HELD ON CHARGES OF INCITING CHAUVINISM, IT SUGGESTED THAT "IF HE WILL ADMIT TO THIS AND REPENT ACCORDINGLY, HIS GESTURE COULD BE WORTHY OF MORE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION". IT MIGHT BE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT LEE EU SENG (FORMER EDITOR OF NANYANG SIANG PAU AND TUNG'S EMPLOYER BEFORE TUNG WAS DETAINED IN 1971 ON THE SAME CHARGES) HAS BEEN DETAINED SINCE JANUARY 1973 ON CHARGES OF CHINESE CHAUVINISM. LEE HAS BEEN TOLD HE WOULD BE RELEASED IF HE WOULD SIGN A STATEMENT PLEDGING HE WILL NEVER BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. SOMETHING ALONG THE SAME LINE MAY BE REQUIRED OF TUNG BEFORE HE IS RELEASED.
HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP03087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770261-0353
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770728/aaaaayfq.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18b95b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SINGAPORE 777, 76 SINGAPORE 5756
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1774562
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DETAINEE SHAMSUDDIN TUNG SEEKS RELEASE
TAGS: PINS, SN, (SHAMSUDDIN TUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18b95b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009